

Pre-camp legal briefing - Climate Camp London 2009

There is an A4 version of the bust card with basic guidance on what to do if searched or arrested that can be printed from the new website. **Download it and take it with you.** Normal printed bust cards will be produced but distribution may be problematic for the swoop, so don't rely on receiving them before getting to the Camp. The bust card includes the numbers to call if you see anyone arrested, and a number for the legal tent for general advice and Bindmans solicitors contact details for if you are arrested. **Add these to your phone, write them on your arm.**

News from the Met - The policing operation is called Operation Bentham: Gold is Ian Thomas, Silver is Julia Pendry, and there are various Bronzes, the one for the Camp is Jane Connors. The indications at this stage are, from both the liaison going on with the Met and from our understanding of the current climate post Kingsnorth and particularly the G20, that the Met will not 'do a Kingsnorth'. The liaison meetings to date have been constructive with the Met working consciously with 'no surprises' - however, we are told by those who did the liaison then that they were before Kingsnorth too so there are no guarantees. So keeping that in mind...We have been told the policing will be community style as a community within a community as there is no mass action planned, provided the Camp is not in a sensitive area (like an airport or a road). There is no plan for a ring of steel around the Camp. Music and sleep deprivation will not be used as a tactic. The policing will be reasonable if the Camp is reasonable. Any affinity group actions will be policed geographically - ie. where they happen. **Searches and FIT will not be over used as a tactic but FIT will be present as the Camp forms and people arrive and for the swoop. (Remember you do not have to cooperate with being filmed and photographed.)** We have been told there will be more concern about items going off the Camp for actions than with items going on given that there may be affinity group action. Strategic reserves will be available but if possible out of sight. There will be a mobile police station for the Camp and the Met hope to resolve complaints informally there. The perimeter will be patrolled but there will not be routine patrols in the camp.

The Met have a twitter for the Climate Camp to keep Campers up-to-date - CO11Metpolice - which you might like to follow. Key working groups like police liaison and legal obviously will follow Met tweets.

If you are driving - there is a special legal briefing, see the new website to download a copy.

If you have any queries - contact legal on 07951 590378.

When you arrive at the Camp come to one of the **daily briefings on the essentials of stop and searches and arrests** which gives up-to-date practical advice: Friday at 2.30pm and then 10.30am from Saturday onwards. Meanwhile some key points below.

If you are searched - there are only very limited circumstances when the police have a power to arrest you for failing to disclose your name and address (listed in the bust card) but **no** search power requires you to disclose your name and address or DOB, or ethnicity or to sign the form. Don't join the police search stop and search and CRIM INT databases. **One in five people gave a name and address during a search at Kingsnorth.** Those details ended up in a database and are used for intelligence purposes. Even if you are not bothered - it can undermine others if you give it - so please don't. The police have various tactics to get your personal details even when you have declined to give it. Shout for a legal observer for advice if you need it. In contrast to what we suggest on our bust card, the Met believe it is Ok to look at

your personal details and write them down on the search form even though you have declined your name provided it forms part of your description (ie, 'name declined' - Male , 5' 10" with bank cards saying James Smith). Obviously we do not agree. If they *know* your name they can write your name (this might be from you telling them or arguably from a photo id) otherwise they have to write a description - common sense description does not include your bank card details.

So, it is much better to come to the Camp with no form of identification on you and certainly no photo id. So bring the money you need and leave your bank cards at home. Use the donate button on the Climate Camp website to avoid having to bring too much cash with you. If you do bring some with you try to talk to a legal observer about what you can do. **Do not bring knives or drugs.** If you bring medicine or any other pills bring it in its original packaging. Knives include any bladed or pointed article - only a folding penknife with a blade of 3 inches or less is OK. There is a defence of good reason but the police are likely to arrest you and leave it to the courts to decide if there is a good reason. So if in doubt leave it at home. If anything is seized, the search form with those items properly noted clearly should be sufficient receipt - there is no need for a name and address to reclaim property - although an evidence bag number would help if one is used. The Met have indicated that bikes locks (two or three are normally recommended for security reasons) with bikes will not be a problem.

If you are arrested - we recommend you use the Arrestee Support line as your one phone call and tell the custody office that they can talk to Arrestee Support about your situation (this is important because otherwise they sometimes say data protection prevents them talking to Arrestee Support - so remember this authorisation). Arrestee Support will try to arrange for someone to meet you when you are released from the police station. Remember you may be bailed away from the Camp. Please keep in contact with legal[at]climatecamp.org.uk after your release so we can monitor what happens over time. If you don't tell us - we don't know. **Don't forget: no comments, no friendly chats, no statements - get legal advice first. It is easier not to talk at all than start and then stop - we recommend you stay silent until you have legal advice on whether to make a statement.**

If you see someone arrested, and a legal observer is not present and calling in the arrest, then here is the ABC and D/E of what you need to do:

A -Alias - if you don't know their name, try asking someone nearby, or if you can shout to them "What name are you giving?" for their name or their tag, or get their description.

B - Base/Basis - if you can find out to what police station they being taken (the police may not know) and what they are being arrested for (now they should know this but may not want to tell you)

C - Call Arrestee Support on **07946 541 511** and tell them when and where the arrest happened and what you know of the above.

D - Describe - You may be a key witness in their defence so make a detailed note asap of what happened leading up to the arrest (mark on it the date and time you made it). Contemporaneous notes are more credible evidence and can be referred to in the witness box so it is worth taking the time to do this. Come to the Legal Tent as soon as possible to make a statement.

E- Evidence - Think about what more evidence might be useful. A plan of the location? A sketch of the scene? Some photos? Find other witnesses and get their details and asking them to write an account in the legal tent. Getting a business card from journalists who may have relevant footage? Potential witnesses can be told to email [legall\[at\]climatecamp.org.uk](mailto:legall[at]climatecamp.org.uk)

with accounts or visit the Legal Tent.

Further reading: General guide - A Climate Activist's guide to the law

<http://www.activistslegalproject.org.uk/cclawguide2008.pdf>

A guide to possible offences

<http://www.activistslegalproject.org.uk/Offences5.pdf>

Arrest process and your rights - excellent advice on the right to remain silent

<http://www.activistslegalproject.org.uk/Arrest%20Process%20and%20Your%20Rights5.pdf>

The impact of arrest and criminal convictions:

<http://www.activistslegalproject.org.uk/Impact%20of%20Arrest%20and%20Conv.pdf>

Finally, a plug for Fit Watch...turning the tables on the police surveillance... details of how to fit watch at <http://www.fitwatch.blogspot.com/> with their latest police spotter card for printing.